



MEMBERS UPDATE

December 2021

Legal and Illegal SHTF Hunting Methods

How to Select the Perfect Holster
The Best Offset Sighting System for Your Rifle
Are You Prepared for a "Personal Doomsday?"

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The Perfect Holster

Are you searching for the perfect holster, one that makes your weapon feel like an extension of your body? With more options than ever before, finding that ideal holster can seem elusive at best. Whether you're interested in concealed or open carry, the NSRA's quick and dirty guide will help you find a holster that fits you to a T.



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Personal Doomsday Prepping

As humans, we tend to fixate on improbable doomsday scenarios: Super volcanos, asteroids, or total societal meltdowns, to name a few. But what about the personal catastrophes that many of us will definitely experience in our lifetimes? Don't know what we're rattling on about? Not to worry, the NSRA is here to help.



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Hunting vs. Survival Hunting

It doesn't matter how experienced you are in the art of harvesting game animals, the realities of hunting under dire circumstances require an almost unrecognizable approach. Imagine what rules might you break if your next meal depended on it? Now, imagine what rules other people might break...



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Best Offset Backup Sights

Here at the NSRA, we love a good optic as much as anyone else. But any sighting system can be a potential point of failure. And when it does fail, that's when you switch to your backup. Don't have one? This article will walk you through the very best options to keep your tactical rifle ready for anything.



Like a Glove: Selecting the Perfect Holster to Fit Your Needs

By Eric Austgen

Choosing a holster when purchasing your first concealed or open carry firearm can seem like a daunting task but with a few quick easy tips you can take the stress out of finding a new home for your smoke-wagon.

There are three factors to consider when selecting a holster: material, style/type, and price. A holster can be made from most any material but the most popular ones floating around the market are of leather, ballistic and CORDURA® nylon, and KYDEX® construction. We'll evaluate these types of holsters just to keep it simple.

The Power of Leather

2 Leather is an outstanding and durable material that has been used for centuries for all kinds of purposes. From protecting the feet of the ancients

from hot desert sands, to leather belts, to spinning pulleys in the factories of the Industrial Revolution making mass production of goods an effortless chore, animal hide has been a very valuable commodity in terms of civilization advancement. As it was then it is here in the present, as well, that leather has an important place; gun leather and plenty of it. Most leather holsters can be purchased through big box outdoorsman chain stores or a private leather worker. The big box holsters are good for those that just need a holster and don't really care as much about aesthetics. Privately made gun leather is a great route if you want a personal touch and something to hand down to future generations. If you care for your leather through proper cleaning, conditioning, and storage, there is virtually little down side to owning a leather holster.

Tough as... Nylon? Yep



Ballistics nylon is a tough, sassy, and bold material that takes absolutely no guff from anyone and anything. This is a material that would go 20 rounds with any heavyweight of your choice and stare back menacingly taunting, "Is that all ya got big guy?". Yes, indeed it has attitude and the street cred to back it up. Ballistic nylon

got its start during World War Two, where it was expressly used to manufacture flak jackets for American bomber crews. After the conclusion of hostilities, the military tinkered with and redesigned the bulky oversized aircrew version into one that could be used for added protection for the mobile ground forces. These are the types of flak jackets seen in use in Korea and Vietnam. With a weight of 18 ounces and high tenacity nylon yarn woven in a tight 2x2 basketweave pattern, it's easy to see why such material was chosen to withstand flying debris from explosions and fragmentation shrapnel from bullets and artillery shells. Unfortunately, it won't stop most rifle and pistol rounds used by the big dogs on the world stage, and that's why Kevlar® took its place on the battlefield. Ballistic

nylon is usually coated with polyurethane in order to add a moisture barrier. Many civilian goods such as backpacks, luggage, biker jackets, knife sheaths, holsters, and chainsaw chaps for loggers are made from this nylon due to its diehard construction and zero loads of manure- given attitude.



CORDURA® nylon is actually the daddy of ballistics nylon, as it was developed in 1929 by DuPont, who later created ballistic nylon for the war effort. CORDURA® was originally marketed

as a rayon material and later developed for use in military tires. Although it can be manufactured purely of nylon it can also contain nylon with a blend of cotton and other natural fibers woven in with it. Unlike ballistic nylon, CORDURA® has a variety of weights and colors available but is also used to manufacture some of the same products as ballistic. The military has used this material to replace canvas and webbed equipment that is more susceptible to mold and mildewing due in part from improper drying and storage methods. This is not much of a problem with CORDURA® as that blend of nylon and other fibers aids in moisture wicking. CORDURA® has excellent ripstop and non-abrasive qualities but is not as bad as bad Leroy Brown as its offspring. Hard, punishing use will ultimately render your CORDURA® holster to nothing more than a wall hanger with a backstory. That's not to say that you have to treat this material with kid gloves, but I wouldn't experiment by seeing what types of projectiles or sharp instruments bounce off of it.

Thermoplastic Acrylic PVC

KYDEX® is the final destination on our material whistle stop tour. This gem of a material came out in the mid-sixties and was originally designed for use as bulkheads and interiors for aircraft. It is a thermoplastic acrylic polyvinyl chloride composite designed for thermoforming applications such

as holsters, knife sheaths, lightweight everyday conveniences, and pretty much anything else you would want to have a formed fit around. The acrylic gives it the rigidity and forming capabilities while the PVC provides toughness, resistance to chemicals, and good interior finish ratings. The reason why KYDEX® has been gaining favor for holster production is that it is completely waterproof, has zero chances of scratching or nicking, the shape is constant without fear of stretching or shrinking, and the friction/drag coefficient when drawing your sidearm is eliminated. KYDEX® is a tough guy and will resist a good amount of abuse. However, high impact injury will naturally cause the holster to break, and that would only occur if you were to get hit by a car, holster first, or repeatedly throwing your holstered weapon against a brick wall. I don't imagine either of those scenarios playing out but hey - stranger things have happened.



Holster Styles

Alrighty then. Now that we have the material issue percolating in your brain bucket, let's move on to the style/type of holster you can expect to encounter. Many veteran shooters and firearm aficionados out there all have their own preferred way to wear and draw their handgun in order to safely and efficiently drop the threat presented to them. To those folks it's second nature and one fluid motion if consistent training is employed. Unfortunately, some of our newer members to the 2A family are at a distinct disadvantage in this department, unless they have done research prior to purchasing their first firearm.

If one pays attention to current events it seems that recent converts to self- defense by gun are driven to their decision because of an immediate threat by an intimate or from the world at large, and they haven't had the opportunity to get a full course in Gun Ownership 101. So, the question is, "How am I going to clear leather fast enough and make

sure I'm the one going home alive?" The answer is position and cant of the holster.

Where and how you wear your holster is one factor that is paramount in helping you stay on the right side of the grass for a long time. Proper placement allows the ability to grab your sidearm smoothly and effortlessly without conscious thought, due to practice and muscle memory, and the subtle psychological warfare waged against your would-be attacker are important factors to consider when looking at a holster. Now the where and how you sling your iron is pretty straight forward to understand, but psychological warfare? Well, that's damn skippy. Concealed and open carriers don't go around purposely looking for a gunfight - quite the contrary as the purpose of carrying a firearm for defense is to ensure that a gunfight does not erupt at all. Many accounts of good guys with a gun have reported that the mere sight of a firearm was enough to deter the crime being committed rather than squeezing off a couple of rounds into the offender.

Guns have been unfairly maligned and stigmatized by corporate media, and the consequences of this have turned rational-thinking, law-abiding citizens into complete meltdown-Karens whenever a gun is encountered in public. However, the scumbag two-legged predators out there will still be perpetrating their crimes and sizing up their targets with childish glee as guns are legislated out of the hands of decent citizens, hardened felons are released back to the streets with reckless abandon, and law-abiders are targeted more than the criminals. These heathens of the lowest order will definitely have a meltdown of another kind when someone with matched or greater firepower shows up. Now let's take a look at the how and where and tie that crazy psychology into it all.

How to Position Your Holster



Holsters can come in what is commonly known as Inner Waist Band (IWB) and Outer Waist Band (OWB) configurations. Some holsters incorporate both systems so that you aren't stuck at home

deciding which one to wear to the ball. We'll touch on both as we make a tour around your gun belt. We will first deal with the different positions of carry for your dominant side hip.



Three positions are possible here for both IWB and OWB holsters, grip forward cant, grip rearward cant, and neutral position or straight up and down. The use of any one of these holsters will be dependent on the user's comfort and training with their firearm and holster. I don't advocate one over the other as they all have advantages especially in combat and tactical situations. The neutral position will have no cant to it and is usually the preferred method of carry for most shooters. Forward canting holsters will have an angle ranging from positive 0 to 30 degrees whereas the rearward cant will be from negative 0 to 30 degrees. Various degrees of these cants are not advised for IWB carry as it may be difficult to draw quickly enough. However, playing around with different holsters and chatting up those in the know will greatly help in your decision of which holster to buy.

Holsters worn at the 3/4 position on the belt can be worn both inside and out and a neutral or forward cant holster should be utilized. The 3/4 position is located between the hip and lower back which can be kind of a pain to draw. In this position it is advisable to wear your holster so that the grip is facing forward although you will have to draw and twist to get into a good firing position. Grip facing rearward will lend to a longer reach and potential for an unnecessary delay in clearing leather when things go south quick.

Lower or small of the back holsters are pretty cool and can also be worn IWB or OWB. The reason why these holsters are so neat is because



they stay hidden very well and can still be drawn expeditiously without much hindrance from clothing. In this case a forward cant is advisable unless you are a contortionist or have the arm length to pull from a neutral position. The ability to carry two guns at the same time is another splendid attribute for lower back carry. I have seen leather holsters constructed for this purpose, usually for short barreled revolvers and semi autos. They are made so that the tops of the gun are facing each other while the grips point outwards to the left and right. Truly a gun rig for those that don't want to get killed for lack of shooting back.

Rounding the horn to the front of your gun belt is where the cross draw and appendix carry reside. The appendix carry can be pulled off in a rearward cant or neutral position. A forward cant can prevent your weapon from digging into your stomach, but will force you to draw with your non-dominant hand. The neutral cant is used when safety is a concern for the carrier. Rearward cant allows for ease of drawing and holstering your firearm. Your body type and ease of movement will also factor in to this method of carry and alleviate the digging. I should warn that if you are like me and possess a well-earned dad bod, this carry is probably not going to work out so well.

Cross draw is one of my favorite types of carry as it allows for me to effectively carry my 1860 Colt snub nose belly gun and advertise that the First National Bank of Me is closed for business. I should note here that the barrel size will also be a variable to consider when deciding to wear your holster. Muzzle direction should also be calculated in as well since an angle greater than 30 degrees will put others at risk. There are many people who like to carry a hog leg that will opt for a holster in

cross draw fashion as it is easier to clear the barrel faster especially when worn at a rearward negative 30-degree cant.

Long barrels are difficult in any other carry configuration even in the neutral position. A great example of this is the 12-inch barrel .45 caliber so-called Colt Buntline Special and holster used by Kurt Russell in "Tombstone." Watch it again and you'll see how much of a chore it is for him to draw, aim, and shoot. A further example of cross draw for longer barrels are the holsters used by the U.S. Cavalry for their 7 1/2-inch Colt Single Action Army and 8-inch Smith and Wesson Schofield revolvers. That's not to say that short barreled pistols can't be successfully used in this method as photographic evidence from the past have shown plainclothes cops wearing either Colt Detective models or Smith and Wesson J and N framed revolvers in cross draw holsters.

Psychological Warfare

Now what about all that noise about psychological warfare? Well your psyche will be boosted by your self confidence in knowing that you are thoroughly trained and know how to draw



no matter what position you carry your gun. It is for the same reasons a would-be assailant will think twice about going after a well-armed individual and I don't know about you, but I don't carry a victim card around and don't intend to apply for one any time soon. And it is because of this that psychological warfare is very effective in stopping a gunfight before it happens. If the perp insists on abusing their intended victim even when faced with the fact the target is armed, then they are obviously stupid, desperate, or they have a death wish, in which case they can be obliged.

Now that you have information overload, we can hit price fairly quickly and easily while sparing your

sanity. Commercially made leather and KYDEX® holsters will run you about 40 bucks and up depending on style and complexity of manufacture. Ballistic and CORDURA® nylon runs between 20 and 70 dollars and can be an ideal economical purchase for those where cost is prohibitive.

For all my fellow do it yourself individuals of the world, there is nothing more satisfying than designing and making a holster to your exact specifications. Leather and KYDEX® can be purchased at any local Tandy Leather retail store or online. If you are a leather novice, Tandy offers excellent hands on classes at their stores that I would recommend in order to get a grasp on the basics or you can do as I did and teach yourself.

Weaver Leather is also a fine supply house for items that aren't carried by Tandy. Ballistics and CORDURA® nylon are both available for purchase by the yard and a quick search on the "Al Gore invented" information superhighway shows about a half dozen merchants selling said material. Nylon is great to work with as it's easy to use with a home sewing machine. Hardware used for leather holsters can also be used for nylon holster construction as well.

Hopefully you now have a good idea and greater confidence in choosing which holster will serve your needs the best. Until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.





Every person who is interested in survivalism knows the basics about prepping for the S to HTF. But what happens when you're dealing with your own personal doomsday? Everyone around you will be moving on like normal, but your life has been entirely derailed. How do you prep for something like this?

First, let's look at some of the many personal doomsday scenarios.

- Extreme sickness
- Job loss/homelessness
- Family structure changes
- Unexpected expenses
- Issues at home
- Personal trauma
- Loss of a family member
- Disability
- Auto accident
- Localized grid outage
- Localized natural disaster

Do you know how to recover from these incidents?

Personal Domsday Scenarios

So, what do these personal doomsday scenarios look like? They'll be different for each person, but this should give you an idea of what you'll be dealing with.

Extreme Sickness

Whether it happens to you or to a loved one, dealing with an extreme or severe illness could completely change your life. In fact, most households aren't prepared for even a \$500 extra expense. If you get sick enough, your expenses will outweigh this \$500 metric. Heck, even just missing a week or two of work could put you on the wrong side of the equation. If something more serious happens such as covid-19, cancer, or even a broken hand, you could easily find yourself up a creek without a paddle.

Job Loss/Homelessness

Losing your job unexpectedly is really rough. Your finances will take an immediate and direct hit, and

you may not be able to find anything else in your field. Compounding this issue is the fact that you may end up homeless. A job loss on its own is horrific. If it goes on for too long, though, you could eventually lose your home, too.

Family Structure Changes

Today, you may have a wife/husband and two happy little kids. But what happens tomorrow if your spouse decides to leave you? Even worse, what happens if they're the primary breadwinner? On the opposite side, what happens if your wife becomes unexpectedly pregnant and it turns out she's having twins? All of these count as family structure changes, and they can turn your life upside down.

Unexpected Expenses

Every other item on this list can lead to unexpected expenses. Or you could simply get hit with a big car repair bill. Either way, though, you may be in trouble. This is especially true if the unexpected expense is more than \$500. The absolute best way to plan for this is to build up your savings account. With at least \$500 put away, you should be able to deal with an expense you weren't expecting.

Issues at Home

Eviction is always a potential issue unless you own your home outright. You could also get into a major power struggle with your spouse, which could cause all kinds of problems. There are also home repairs to deal with, along with the unexpected breaking down of your washing machine, etc.

Personal Trauma



One thing that people don't put nearly enough thought into is personal trauma. For example, let's imagine that your home burns up in a fire. Getting out of the house and dealing with the aftermath can be extremely traumatic. This can lead to trouble sleeping, difficulty concentrating, etc. As a result, it may become a lot harder for you to deal with other issues.

Loss of a Family Member

This one will hit even harder than a basic family structure change. Once someone is gone, there's absolutely nothing you can do to bring them back. And if they didn't leave behind a life insurance policy, it's almost always going to hurt you financially, as well as emotionally. The average cost of a burial in the US is around \$10,000, after all.

Disability

Even worse than having a devastating illness is developing a disability. It will haunt you for the rest of your life and may significantly reduce your odds of making a living. And, of course, the U.S. government will barely help you scrape by. You definitely won't be in a position to put aside any money, unless you happen to be rich when you become disabled.

Auto Accident

If you're like most people, you can't afford to replace your car on the fly. Therefore, whether you're in an accident or your car simply breaks down, you're going to have difficulty getting it back up and running again. This is, yet again, why you really need to have some emergency savings. Keep in mind that if your car is unable to work for more than a couple of days, you may also be at risk of losing your job.

Localized Grid Outage

We're all aware that the national electric grid could go down for a number of reasons, including getting hacked. What happens if it's just your local grid, though? This will not only make it difficult to do daily things, but it will also make others much less sympathetic to your plight. Unfortunately, people won't keep your specific situation in mind unless it also affects them.

Localized Natural Disaster

A natural disaster is also on our list of typical prepper scenarios. But if it only happens on your block, it's going to become a lot more personal, too. The rest of the world won't be affected, which will make you and your neighbors feel even more left in the cold. Therefore, whether the disaster is caused by a tornado or a flash flood, it's most likely going to be very problematic.

How Can You Prepare for a Personal Doomsday?

The number one most important thing you can do to prepare for a personal doomsday is create a savings account with at least \$500 in it. This should get you through about a week of trouble. Ideally, your savings account would have at least \$3,000-\$6,000 in it, but let's start where we can. Put aside \$500, then look at how much you can spare per week. Even if it's just \$5-\$10, it will eventually add up to a lot.

Another thing you can do is get your body in good shape. This may not completely save you from something more insidious, but it will help you bounce back more quickly from a long list of other ailments. Another perk of exercising is that it generally makes you feel less hungry and in a better mood.

If you experience any personal trauma – ranging from an assault to a fire – you may need to go to a therapist. Again, having extra money on hand can help make this a breeze. Your extra money can also allow you to take a week or two off work, if necessary.

The simple answer to almost every type of doomsday is to have extra money on hand. You could also help yourself to some of your prepper food in times of need to help keep expenses low.

Save Your Money for What Really Matters

9 This particular topic is a bit controversial but hang with us for a moment. One of the ways that people

spend their money and end up with no savings is buying unproven items. Yes, we understand that as survivalists, there are many fringe items that can be very effective. However, there are just as many things that are nothing more than a scam.

If you're uncertain what category a particular item falls into, stop and do some research. That really cool \$200 item might fail to deliver on its promises. Instead of getting stuck with it, stick the \$200 in your bank account instead.

Don't Ignore Your Day-to-Day Life



Preppers can make the mistake of becoming overly obsessed with a doomsday scenario. Sometimes, it might even cause the irrevocable breakdown of their marriage. This will instantly create a personal doomsday where there didn't need to be one.

Instead, take the time to care about other things. Ask your spouse what she/he is interested in. Don't mock them, even if you don't understand where they're coming from. Listening skills are vital, as is letting your partner know that you truly see them.

Remember: you and your spouse should work as a unit. This means there is no room for constant bickering or filling every single second of your relationship with doomsday discussions. Taking it easy on the topic of prepping – at least in your daily conversations – will probably make for a happier marriage. This doesn't mean that you won't be prepping, it simply means it won't become the primary focus of your discussions.

Talk Through a Plan

Now, there are going to be times when you must talk about your prepper plans. For instance, talking through a contingency plan is a must. Where will your family go in the event of a disaster? Make a plan and a backup plan. Talk about it every 6 to 12 months. That's a good way to ensure everyone is on the same page and won't be likely to forget the plan – and it keeps you from overdoing it.

Don't Rely on Luck or Human Nature



Are you a lucky person? That's great, but don't rely on it to last forever. Even worse would be to rely on human nature. Your buddy allowed you to sleep on his couch for a few days? Fantastic! If you think he's going to let you do that indefinitely, though, you may have another think coming.

The reality is that people tend to be there for each other in the very beginning of any tragedy. Sure enough, however, they'll all drift away. You truly can't rely on anyone except yourself, and what good is that going to do you if you're a day away from becoming homeless?

Instead of believing that people will be there to pick you up when you need it most, start making plans today for how you can avoid getting into a bad situation in the first place. Because here's a very important tip: those people who become so desperate that they beg for money aren't doing nearly as well as you might think. It's hard to sit outside in all types of weather, and your reward for it might only be a few dollars. Don't let yourself get to this point.

Prepping for a Personal Doomsday Helps Prepare You for the S to HTF

Here's something that many people don't realize: when you prep for a personal doomsday, you also become more prepared for a big time SHTF scenario. Think about it for a minute. What do you need once the SHTF? First, you'll need some money. Then, you'll need supplies to live on such as food and water. Well, during a personal doomsday, you'll need the same stuff!

Basically, the main difference between a personal or global incident is the scope of how much stuff you'll need. For instance, having a couple of months' worth of food should help you weather through a personal tragedy. If it's on more of a national or global scale, you'll want to have at least 6-12 months' worth of food. Plus, you'll need a plan for how to plant and cultivate your own food.

On the money front, a personal doomsday can usually be solved by having enough money in the bank. When it's a widespread doomsday, you'll also want money, but you won't want it to be in the bank. You might even prefer precious gems and metals because they're likely to be worth more as society collapses.

Do you see our point? Prepping is always a way to prepare for some unwanted future event. Starting off small is a good way to ensure you'll eventually be ready for everything. This concept is probably the best way to introduce new preppers to the very idea of prepping. After all, it doesn't require nearly as much of an investment, but it still helps prepare your family for whatever may come next.

No matter what, it's a wise idea to get your ducks in a row. Therefore, if that means starting with an extra \$500 in the bank and some extra food in your pantry, you'll still be ahead of most people. And if you continue to expand your plans from there, you'll be sitting pretty whenever the world as we know it ceases to exist.



Legal and Illegal SHTF Hunting Methods

Many preppers spend a lot of time thinking about the tools and equipment they will need if society collapses, but they don't spend much time thinking about how they will use them. They buy rifles, camo gear, and other hunting supplies because they know that supermarkets and convenience stores will be looted in a matter of hours if society breaks down, but they rarely stop to consider whether hunting for survival in a SHTF world will be anything like the outdoor leisure trips of today.

Hunting for Leisure

Most of the people who hunt in the developed world do so for leisure. They may eat the animals they kill, but they do not venture out into the wilderness because they are starving. They simply find going on a hunting trip an enjoyable and challenging way to spend a day or weekend. Here are some of the things that most hunting trips have in common:

- **Long drives:** Leisure hunters can plan long trips because they do not have to worry about fuel. They can also leave their vehicles unattended without fear.
- **Friendly people:** Fellow hunters may wave hello and stop to share a few stories, and locals who run businesses that rely on hunters also tend to be friendly.
- **Plenty of rules:** Leisure hunters have to follow myriad rules. Some animals are protected and cannot be hunted at any time, while others may be hunted but only during strictly enforced seasons. There are also restrictions on the types of weapons and ammunition hunters can use, and methods considered cruel, such as setting snares, may be prohibited.
- **Fun:** Sitting around a campfire and swapping stories is something that most hunters enjoy and look forward to.
- **Good information:** Leisure hunters have access to long-range weather forecasts, GPS systems and satellite photographs, so they always know what to expect.
- **Convenience:** Hunters can drag a deer to their vehicle, strap it to the hood and then make it home in a matter of hours, and they will

have modern conveniences like electricity and refrigeration waiting for them.

- **Support:** Leisure hunters who get lost or injure themselves miles from the nearest hospital know that they will be fine as long as they have a cell phone with a reliable signal. Even if they do not, they know that a rescue effort will be launched to find them sooner or later.

Hunting for Survival



Hunting will be very different if society falls. Hunting for survival in a world without rules will be a very different experience. The people who hunt in a SHTF environment will be doing so to prevent their loved ones from starving, and the expeditions they embark on will be gruelling, weeklong treks and not casual weekend jaunts. Here are a few things preppers should brace themselves for if they plan to hunt for food:

- **Long hikes:** Fuel supplies will be depleted quickly following a societal collapse, so driving will probably not be an option for survival hunters. This means hunters could be hiking for days before they find the animals they are looking for, and the return journey will be even more difficult.
- **Enemies everywhere:** Other humans will usually be adversaries in the SHTF world, and that will be especially true on hunting trips. The need to remain stealthy will also influence weapons choices. A rifle shot tells anybody within about five miles that a human has just fired a weapon and probably killed an animal, but a bow or crossbow is silent.

- **No rules:** There will be no game wardens or environmental rules in a post-collapse world, so survival hunters will be able to kill whatever they want whenever they want.
- **Stress:** Survival hunting is a matter of life and death, so there will be little time to relive the old days or wander down memory lane. Instead of enjoying camaraderie and bonding, survival hunters have to make do with pressure and stress.
- **Little or no information:** There will be no internet in a post-collapse world, so survival hunters will have limited information to work with.
- **Inconvenience:** Survival hunters will have to skin and dress their kills in the field and then prepare the meat and hides for transport. They will then have to drag everything back to their homes while constantly remaining on the lookout.
- **No support:** If survival hunters become disoriented or suffer major injuries, their prospects will be very grim indeed. No rescue helicopters will be sent to look for them, and no doctors will be standing by to treat them.

Preparing for the Unthinkable



A hunting expedition in a world without electricity and running water is something that should only be embarked upon after a great deal of planning and preparation. One of the first things to consider is the uncomfortable decisions you will have to make. Are

you prepared to kill and eat household pets? Could you kill a farmer's livestock to feed your family or even kill the farmer if he tried to stop you? Thinking about these choices is exercise for the mind, and preparing for the worst is almost always better than hoping for the best.

Town and City Wildlife

Towns and cities are teeming with wildlife, but pigeons, squirrels, dogs and cats will not be a viable food source for long if supermarkets close down. History shows us what happens when a city runs out of food. Animals like ducks and geese that are commonly eaten are killed first, and then people become less fussy and start eating companion animals and even rats. To survive in this kind of environment, hunters will have to wander far and wide in search of game.

Grow a Survival Garden



Before you could grab neatly wrapped up meat at the grocery store, people often raised livestock and hunted wild animals like squirrels, racoon and rabbits for food. They still do today, but it was more prevalent in times of the Great Depression and before. They

supplemented the food with fruit and vegetables they grew on their land and canned and pickled enough food to last through the winter.

Knowing how to grow a survival garden can not only help you survive, but can keep you, and especially your children, from getting malnutrition-related diseases. Also, remember if you are growing some plants in containers, more potting soil is better.

Here are a few vegetables and fruits to consider growing:

Vegetables

- Carrots
- Beets
- Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes
- Cucumbers (they make pickles too)
- Lentils
- Onions
- Spinach
- Peas
- Herbs
- Bell Peppers

Fruit

- Berries
- Figs
- Melons
- Tomatoes
- Peaches
- Apples
- Citrus
- Passion fruit
- Tropical fruits
- Grapes

Gourmet Food in the Apocalypse

Also, it's not a bad idea to learn how to grow mushrooms and learn how to use their mycelium to grow new ones. Lion's mane and giant oyster mushrooms are easy to cultivate and can provide vital nutrition and sustenance. You can get kits that have everything you need to grow in them in the box. Imagine that: Sautéed gourmet mushrooms over the meat you provided for the family meal.

Intelligence Gathering

Survival hunters should gather as much information as they can before they head out into the woods. They should study maps carefully to pick routes that are likely to be both easy to navigate and lightly travelled, and they should learn as much as they can about the animals they will encounter. Sticking close to rivers is a good way to avoid gruelling climbs, and knowing what times of the day animals are active and when they visit water holes could make taking them a lot easier.

Necessary Equipment



Walking over rugged and uneven terrain for days on end will not be easy, so it would be wise to carry as little additional weight as possible. One way to lighten the load is to look for a route that can be used again and again. If you do this, you can leave durable items behind so you will not have to carry them on your next trip. Just make sure that you protect the items you leave behind from the elements and conceal them from animals or humans. Avoid the impulse to build a hunting camp as this is something that would almost certainly be discovered and looted. Here are some of the things you will need on a survival hunting trip:

- **A silent weapon:** You will want to attract as little attention as possible when you finally sight some game, so you will want to use a silent weapon. Blades and bows will do in a pinch, but you would be far better off with a suppressed rifle. Getting a suppressor is possible under U.S. gun laws, but there is a lot of paperwork involved and completing the process can take months.

- **Quality maps:** You will not be able to access mapping services on a cell phone or laptop, so the paper maps you carry with you should be up to the job. If avoiding hills sounds better to you than walking up and down them, make sure that the maps you choose have contour lines.
- **Binoculars:** High-quality optics will come in handy in the woods because animals have evolved over millions of years to blend in with their surroundings, and a pair of binoculars may be very useful on the return trip when you are trying to avoid being set upon and robbed.
- **Books about animals:** Books are heavy, so just pull out the pages you need to identify tracks and droppings.
- **A sled:** Something with wheels or skids will be a godsend on the return trip because you could be pulling hundreds of pounds of meat behind you.
- **A jerky cabinet:** The animals you kill on a survival hunting trip will have to be dressed in the field, which means you will have to smoke or jerk the meat to preserve it. Drying in the sun encourages pathogens, so a cabinet of some kind is required. Designs for jerky cabinets can be found online, just look for one with parts small enough to fit inside a backpack.

Learn Valuable Skills Today

The people who survive in an uncertain world do three things. They gather useful information, acquire reliable tools, and learn valuable skills. If you plan to support yourself and your family by venturing out into the wilderness in search of game, you should learn a lot more than how to shoot a rifle. You should learn how to skin and dress an animal and preserve its meat, and you should also know how to set traps and avoid detection. However, the first thing you will need to do is achieve and maintain the level of physical fitness you will need to walk for miles over rough ground pulling hundreds of pounds of meat.



THE BEST OFFSET SIGHTING SYSTEM FOR YOUR RIFLE

If you've ever seen someone shoot their AR-15 tilted to the side, then you may already know what an offset shooting system is. Just in case you don't, this particular style of shooting comes with a sight on the gun that's purposefully offset by 45 degrees.

What's the purpose of this? Speed, and lots of it! In fact, you can use these sights in about half the time of an inline "co-witness" system. Therefore, whether you're protecting your family or trying to catch some dinner, the offset shooting system provides a real advantage.

With the offset system, you can still access the speed of iron sights while still having a magnified optic mounted as your primary. In the past, shooters had to take the time to dial down their magnification and spend hours working to make your sights co-witness. Instead, as long as you're shooting at a relatively short range, you will simply rotate your gun, line up your shot, and fire. Even better, you won't have to mess around with your optic mount.

THINGS YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN

Of course, shooting your rifle at a 45-degree angle will take some getting used to. You will eventually

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get the hang of it, and this will allow you to fire a

shot in a fraction of the normal time. While you're getting used to it, though, it may actually slow you down.

Another thing to consider is that an offset sight can snag on some things if you're not careful. Again, though, once you get the hang of it, you shouldn't have these types of problems.

WHAT'S THE BEST OFFSET SIGHT?

There are many options available to you, so we wanted to help you find the best of the best. Read the following list and come to your own conclusion (although we think you'll agree that the first item on this list is all you'll need!).

AR-15 RAPID ACQUISITION OFFSET SIGHT (R.A.O.S.)



The R.A.O.S. is durable and lightweight, but it's not a cheap toy sight. Instead, it's machined from Aircraft Grade 7075. The R.A.O.S. will work with any rifle that uses a Picatinny rail system, which gives it a lot of versatility.

Perhaps the best part is that it's been torture tested and proven to work by the military, SWAT, and competition shooters. In other words, the R.A.O.S. is ready to go and will provide you with close range shooting without repositioning your hands or breaking your cheek weld.

This system is available from mycrisisgear.com and has withstood up to 5,000 rounds of continuous shooting. That's very impressive!

PREDATOR V2 REFLEX SIGHT



This waterproof and fog proof system is sealed with O-rings. The lens coating also provides reflection proof shooting. There are two color settings – red and green – to enable you to see

clearly whether it's day or night.

And, of course, it comes with a 45-degree offset mount for quicker shooting. The downside of this system is, of course, that rather than iron sights, the Predator V2 does require batteries. That doesn't invalidate it as a backup option, however it is another item to put on the checklist before you head to the range.

TACTION 45 DEGREE OFFSET FLIP UP IRON SIGHTS

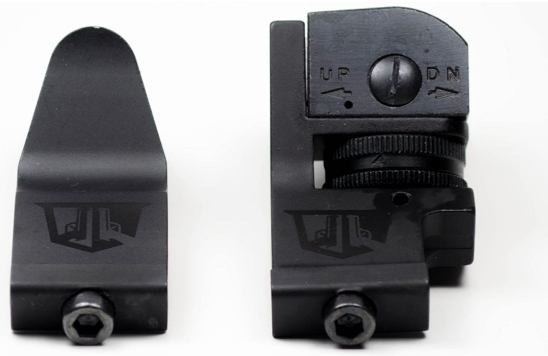


A simple press of the button allows the iron sight to pop up quickly. This piece may be cheaper than most on Amazon, which brings up questions about its

stability. At least it comes with a mounting wrench, though! It also currently has a 4.5-star average out of 2,917 reviews, so it must be doing something

right. When you don't have it on your rifle, you can store it in the wooden case that comes with this mount.

OZARK ARMAMENT 45 DEGREE OFFSET BACKUP IRON SIGHTS



If optic failure has ever taken you out of the fight, then you may be interested in this piece from Ozark Armament. Probably the best thing about this sight is that it doesn't interfere with your optic sight picture. Additionally, it allows for a quick transition from the primary optic. This easy and secure mount comes from a U.S.-based company.

FEYACHI 45 DEGREE FRONT AND REAR BACKUP IRON SIGHTS



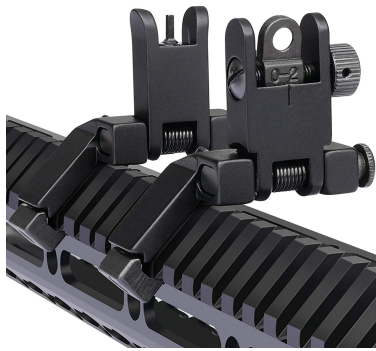
These ambidextrous sights mount to Picatinny rail mounts. All you need is a flathead screwdriver to achieve the right look and feel for you. The low-profile sights are a nice touch, which only extend 2" above the top rail. This enables

you to use this mount, when necessary, without interfering with the main optics.

You won't have to move your hands or make any manual adjustments. Instead, use the quick and smooth transition that will help you win a competition!

MARMOT 45 DEGREE OFFSET FLIP UP SIGHT

The Marmot sight is compatible with a wide range of other products, including red dot sights. It features adjustable elevation and windage, and it doesn't take up much space when flipped up. Additionally, it offers a rapid transition and can be



used by right or left-handers.

This piece comes with a black matte finish and is solid, high-quality aluminum alloy. It has an adjustable bore diameter, which

allows you to shoot a short or long distance. Amazon's reviewers have currently given it a 4.2-star average out of 850 reviews.

KNINE OUTDOORS 45 DEGREE OFFSET IRON SIGHTS



This may be one of the cheapest offset iron sights, but it still packs a powerful punch! Retailing for only \$17.95 currently on Amazon, it's earned

a 4-star average out of 18 reviews. It will pop up instantly at the press of the button and works equally well, whether you're left or right-handed.

The front sight can easily be adjusted (the tool is not included), and the rear sight features long range and CQB modes. Anodized black matte keeps the sights in good shape and you can easily anchor the sights to a 20mm, 21mm, or 22mm Weaver or Picatinny rails.

AWOTAC FIBER OPTIC IRON SIGHTS



With a non-rust anodized finish and a spring-loaded, push-up design, this item works easily as long as you have a Picatinny or Weaver rail. It also features a visible front red dot sight and a rear

green dot sight to make it easier to see what you're aiming at.

This weighs in at only a quarter of a pound.

However, be aware that the fiber optics can break if you're not careful. In fact, several reviewers spoke about this problem. Overall, though, it currently has a 4.4-star average on Amazon out of 73 reviewers.

MEIRUI 45 DEGREE OFFSET IRON SIGHTS



You can easily attach these sights with the included Allen wrench. The front sight may be slightly off to the left, but it can be lined up at seven yards if you're

using a laser bore sighter. It's durable and very lightweight and also has an anodized matte black finish.

Adjusting this is easy, but you'll need to provide the standard elevation tool. It comes with a rear sight with two modes. It also has a windage adjustment knob and scale marks to improve your overall accuracy.

These 20-22mm Weaver or Picatinny rail sights work well on either side of your gun. It currently has a 4.5-star average on Amazon out of 18 reviewers.

SOUFORCE ALUMINUM FLIP UP IRON SIGHTS



Universal compatibility means that you can fit this onto any Picatinny or Weaver rail, as long as it's 20mm. This piece offers a pop-up button and is easily used by right-handers and left-handers.

You'll be able to zero in much better on minimal to medium distances, making this well-worth the current \$27.99 list price.

Amazon buyers have been mostly satisfied. In fact, they gave this a 4.3-star average out of almost 1,820 reviews. Be aware that some of the reviewers indicated that the advertised pop-up button didn't work, so they had to operate this feature manually.

FALCONOPTICS 45 DEGREE IRON SIGHTS



This FalconOptics product is made to be suitable with a Picatinny mount only. It's made from 6063 hardened aircraft grade aluminum alloy.

Additionally, the backup sights offer a good balance of properties.

Simply flip-up the spring-loaded iron sights by touching a button. The rear sight is adjustable for windage, and the front sight is adjustable for elevation. It comes with dual apertures, which make it a breeze to switch between Precision and CQB shooting.

This sighting system currently has a 4.3-star average on Amazon out of 115 ratings.

TPO FLIP-UP FRONT & REAR COMBO IRON SIGHTS



TPO produced a very budget-conscious product, but this does come with lower ratings. On Amazon, it currently has a 3.8-star average out of 7 ratings.

It was designed to fit on a Picatinny or Weaver rail. It's made out of a durable, high-quality material known as 6061-T6 aluminum alloy. You can switch between the sights with the press of a button. It doesn't take up too much space and has an ambidextrous design.

GOYEA TACTICAL IRON SIGHTS FOR RIFLE



Goyea produced an iron sights system that's made of high-density, exquisite aluminum. The clip is made of durable steel and the entire piece has an anodized, non-rust finish. This system is also fully adjustable for elevation and windage.

The flip-up sights are securely mounted, and its compatible with Weaver and Picatinny rails. This system also comes with an Allen wrench so that you're good to go!

The rear sight features a dual aperture switch, which enables you to switch between Precision and CQB designs for short- and long-range usage. Goyea's product has currently earned a 4.4-star rating out of 95 Amazon reviews.

BUGLEMAN OFFSET FIBER OPTICS FLIP-UP IRON SIGHT



Bugleman's iron sights offer a 1/2 MOA elevation. They pop-up with the press of a button. These low sights aren't more than 2", therefore they won't get in the way of primary optics.

This product offers a solid, lightweight, and durable performance with no wobble! It's made out of T6-6061 aircraft aluminum alloy and has an anodized black matte finish. The front sight is completely adjustable, and it even comes with the necessary tool (a \$10 value). You'll also receive a free Allen wrench to help you mount the sights onto a Picatinny or Weaver rail.

DAGGER DEFENSE FLIP UP BUIS 45 DEGREE PICATINNY MOUNTED BACKUP SIGHTS



This item from Dagger Defense will fit most Picatinny rail systems. It offers fantastic back up iron sights for a red dot sight and has a spring-loaded flip-up feature. Additionally, it's made of aluminum alloy and comes in a black matte finish.

For optimal use, you should be prepared to add a light coat of oil (not included) to all moving parts. This will help with ease of deployment. The push buttons also act as a retention adjustment knob. Rather than pushing the button, you'll turn them clockwise or counterclockwise to make sure they stay in the locked position.

It will fit onto all 1913 rail systems, offers 45-degree canted sights, and can be adjusted as needed (tool not included). Amazon reviewers have been pleased with it, as evidenced by the current 4.5-star average out of more than 1,000 reviews.

OTW IRON SIGHT FLIP UP 45 DEGREE RAPID TRANSITION



This is a sturdy mount that uses hexagonal screws. It is attached via an Allen wrench to any 20mm Picatinny rail. Made of black anodized machined aluminum alloy, OTW's offering has a flip-up design, elevation adjustment, and an accurate sight.

This piece takes advantage of the natural ability of your brain and eye to easily align concentric circles. The TWOD mode provides a quick transition between closer target acquisition and long-range target engagement.

Amazon reviewers have currently given this a 4.4-star average out of 412 reviews.

KINBON 45 DEGREE IRON SIGHTS



Finally, the last product on our list is from KINBON. This easy to install product fits all Picatinny rails. The flip-up sights are made from aluminum alloy, which is sturdy and offers a low profile.

The ambidextrous design can be used by anyone, and it offers super-fast deployment. All you need to do is press a button and your sights will pop up!

This system currently has a 4.5-star average out of 2,645 reviews.

WHICH ONE IS BEST?

All of these iron sights have something to offer you. However, if you paid close attention, you've also learned that they're very similar to each other. You could probably get by with any of these, but we suggest the R.A.O.S. for the very best results.

After all, it has a mil-spec type III hard anodized finish, and it's got a precision ½ MOA windage and elevation adjustments. When you combine this with all the other perks – especially the fact that it was torture tested at up to 5,000 continuous rounds – it becomes clear that the R.A.O.S. is the best iron sight system around.





DIY Deer Jerky: Teriyaki and Hot Pepper Sauce

This is an easy to follow recipe that people who are newcomers to making jerky can easily master. The resulting flavor also makes this method a favorite amongst individuals who have been making their own jerky for several years.

Instructions:

1. Gather at least 1.5 pounds of venison.
2. Cut the meat into 1/8" slices.
3. Prepare your marinade sauce using the following recipe:

- 3/4 cup of Worcestershire sauce
- 3 tablespoons of Teriyaki sauce
- 1/4 cup of soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon of ketchup
- 1 tablespoon of fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon of liquid smoke
- 1 teaspoon of hot pepper sauce (Tabasco)
- 1 teaspoon of powder onion
- 1 tablespoon of garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon of black pepper

4. Place your marinade mixture into a gallon sized freezer bag. Next, put the 1/8" slices of deer meat into the bag. Knead the bag so that the marinade completely saturates the meat, and then place the bag flat onto a refrigerator shelf. You will get the best results if you knead the bag again every few hours to keep the sauce evenly spread out.

5. After approximately 12 hours, remove the bag from the refrigerator and take all of the meat out. Next, let the excess marinade drip off and then lay each of the jerky pieces on a dehydrator or on an oven rack.

Cooking Notes: If you are using a dehydrator, you will need to leave the meat in place for five to six hours. If you will be utilizing an oven instead, set the temperature to 150 degrees Fahrenheit and let the meat sit for approximately three hours. Be sure to check the jerky frequently and adjust the cooking time if needed. After the jerky is almost done, bump the temperature up to 200 degrees Fahrenheit and leave the door cracked open. Leave the oven like this for another hour.

6. After the jerky is done, put it in an open Ziplock bag and place it in the refrigerator until it cools off. After the jerky is cool, you can remove the air from the bag, seal it and store it outside of your refrigerator.

Tactical Laser Sight



No technical expertise required...
you will have the Tactical Laser Sight on within 45 seconds or less!

- Fits Any Gun With A Picatinny or Weaver Rail... Including Brands Like: S&W, Sig Sauer, Glock, Remington, Beretta, Rugers and many, many more
- 100% shockproof and will stay zeroed in with each and every shot and is even weatherproof!




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